DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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February 12, 1981

Mr. Asia A. Bennett
Executive Secretary
American Friends Service Committee
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I am writing in response to your telegram of January 27 to President Reagan concerning the commutation of Mr. Kim Dae Jung's sentence. At the same time, I am also responding to your earlier letter to me of November 13, 1980. I regret that the unusual press of business these past weeks has prevented me from responding to you sooner.

The Department of State also welcomed President Chun's decision to commute Mr. Kim's sentence and was pleased that some other Korean dissidents have recently been released from confinement, including Korean poet Kim Chi-ha and Dr. Yun In-ho, a co-defendant of Kim Dae Jung's. Also in January, most persons purged from government service, educational institutions and the media during the turmoil last year were again declared eligible to return to their professions.

We are pleased by the spirit of reconciliation embodied in these actions and hope that they presage further conciliatory gestures by the Korean government in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Rich
Director of Korean Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY HT DATE 8/18/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

JANUARY 30, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 000343

MEDIA: MAILGRAM, DATED JANUARY 27, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MS. ASIA A BENNETT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
1501 CHERRY STREET
PHILADELPHIA PA 19102

SUBJECT: URGES THE US TO EXERT ITS INFLUENCE TO FREE
KIM DAE JUNG

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-2717.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 94, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITT
0501 CHERRY STREET
PHILA PA 19102

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01 PHILA PA JANUARY 27 1981

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DOS

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

000343

WE WELCOME NEWS THAT THE LIFE OF THE KOREAN KIM DAE-JUNG HAS BEEN SPARED. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM ARE FALSE AND CANNOT JUSTIFY HIS IMPRISONMENT. WE FEEL THAT KIM SHOULD BE RELEASED AND URGE THE UNITED STATES TO EXERT ITS INFLUENCE TOWARD THIS GOAL.

ASIA A BENNETT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
AFSC -

15:11 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR WESTERN UNION'S TOLL - FREE PHONE NUMBERS